

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059442
ORIGIN ARA-10

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PPC:AWOODRUFF
ARA:CWBRAY

-----171646Z 083989 /40

P R 171614Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059442

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
TO AMBASSADOR FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, HO

SUBJECT:PARM-77: COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S GUIDANCE

1. WE PERCEIVE LITTLE CHANGE IN THE PREVAILING ASSESSMENT
OF LAST YEAR THAT THE U.S. HAS ONLY LIMITED OVERALL
INTERESTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, MADE A
SPECIAL EFFORT OVER THE PAST YEAR TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON
CENTRAL AMERICA AS A SUBREGION AND ARTICULATE THOSE
INTERESTS WE DO HAVE IN A MORE COHERENT FORM. WE HOPE
THAT THE VARIOUS INPUTS AND INTERCHANGES GENERATED THUS
FAR WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU AS THE CURRENT PARM CYCLE
DEVELOPS.

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2. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT FORMULATIONS OF SPECIFIC LOCAL
PRIORITIES SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED
FRAMEWORK FOR CENTRAL AMERICA. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE BELIEVE
OUR OVERALL INTERESTS IN HONDURAS ARE BASICALLY UNCHANGED
FROM THE WAY THEY WERE FORMULATED IN LAST YEAR'S CASP.

3. AS WE SEE IT, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE A KEY ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. BUT HOW DOES THE EMBASSY ASSESS THE POTENTIAL HONDURAN REACTION TO THE

HUMAN RIGHTS-RELATED TENSIONS WHICH MAY ARISE ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA? WILL THE REACTION BE SOLIDARITY WITH THE ACCUSED VIOLATORS OR WILL THE IMPETUS FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT BE INCREASED? IS THERE A POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR A SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION IN YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION? HOW SHOULD THE U.S. FOCUS ITS EFFORTS TO FORESTALL ANY SUCH DETERIORATION?

4. GIVEN THE FACT THAT AMONG OUR LIMITED INTERESTS IS A DESIRE TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF SITUATIONS WHICH THREATEN THE STABILITY OF THE SUBREGION, HOW DO PROSPECTS FOR A SOLUTION OF THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR BORDER DISPUTE APPEAR TO BE SHAPING UP? IS OUR ROLE IN THE DISPUTE IN NEED OF CHANGE? WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE IF THE NEGOTIATIONS COLLAPSE? HOW ARE ARMS PURCHASES BY THE GOH AFFECTING THE UTILIZATION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PURPOSES?

5. HONDURAS HAS NOT SHARED IN THIS YEAR'S COFFEE BONANZA TO THE EXTENT THAT GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, AND COSTA RICA HAVE. HOW DOES THIS STAND TO AFFECT THE PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERALL? ON PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATING A NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET AGREEMENT?

6. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A PLEA FOR BREVITY. YOUR WASHING-
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TON READERSHIP IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO FOCUS ON A STREAM-
LINED, COMPACT DOCUMENT.
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